

## The Knoxville Independent

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"No men living are more worthy to be trusted than those who toil up from poverty, none less inclined to take or touch aught which they have not honestly earned."—Abraham Lincoln.

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LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE FOR  
TENNESSEE  
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FEDERATION OF LABOR  
John Jeffrey ..... Pittsburg, Ky.LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE FOR  
KENTUCKY  
John McIlquhan ..... Pittsburg, Ky.WE MUST NOT EXPLOIT  
WOMEN AND CHILDREN

Secretary of War Baker has issued a warning against the danger that, in the concentration of the nation's energies upon industrial support of the war, there will be such breakdown in the laws to protect woman and child labor, as will cause disastrous devitalization of the nation's strength.

"We cannot afford, when losing boys in France, to lose children at home," said Secretary Baker. "With the great drain which we will suffer in France because of the casualties of war, we cannot afford a great drain upon the nation here at home, because of the devitalization of our youth. There is a possibility that we shall suffer at home losses equally great as those sustained by our armies abroad."

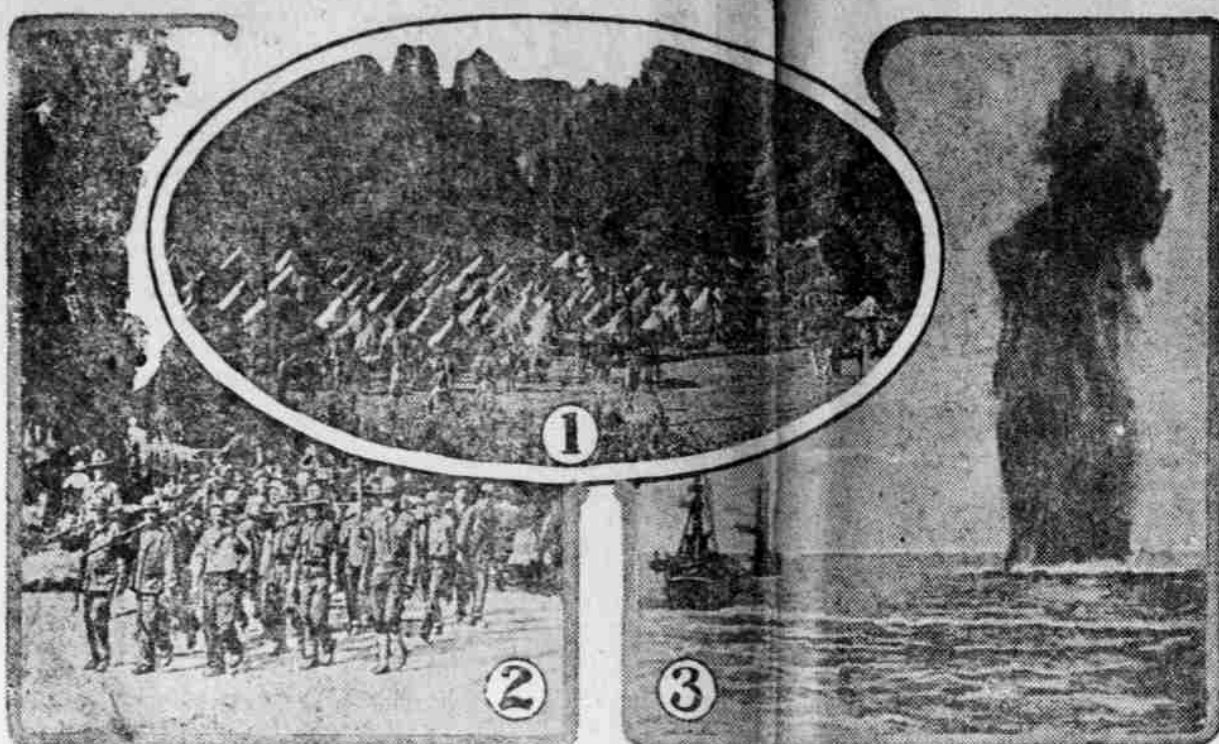
## Flour Held in Warehouses.

Cincinnati, O.—That \$1,000,000 worth of flour is being held in the warehouses of a certain railroad company upon which no taxes are being paid was the startling declaration made by Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Louis H. Capelle in Insolvency Court at the hearing before Judge Kelley of the injunction suit by the Fred Pagels Co., warehouse owners, to prevent the collection of taxes upon several hundred thousand dollars' worth of goods said to be held in storage by the company.

## Shells Explode in Ammunition Plant.

Wilmington, Del.—Officials of the projectile-loading plant of the Bethlehem Steel Co., near Newcastle, where 4,000 three-inch shrapnel shells exploded during a fire, killing one man, are not convinced that the origin of the fire was an accident. A statement given out by P. G. Paris, Superintendent of the plant said: "Although I have not yet completed my investigation as to the origin of the fire, I do not see how it could have been accidental."

Knoxville.—Guarded by railroad police, men who took the places of about 100 striking negro truckmen and freight handlers here, are handling the heavy freight traffic of the Southern railway here.



1—Camp of the Italian Alpini in the Carnic Alps where the Austro-Germans were held in check for a day. 2—American army engineers, some of whom have been taking part in the battle of Cambrai, leaving their camp for building operations. 3—British trawlers exploding a German sea mine.

NEWS REVIEW OF  
THE PAST WEEKPresident's Message Declaring  
America in War to Finish,  
Hailed With Joy.

## ADDS AUSTRIA TO OUR FOES

Progress of Russia's Efforts for Armistice—Germans Sacrifice Men Recklessly in Furious Attacks in France and Italy—American Troops to Be Rushed Across.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD.

The United States is in the war to the finish—and that finish must be the overthrow of the Prussian military despotism, the liberation and restoration of the peoples it has enslaved and reparation for the material damage its armies have done. When this is assured, the United States will insist on a peace that is based on generosity and justice to all alike, excluding all selfish claims to advantage even on the part of the victors. Meanwhile Austria-Hungary must be formally declared "out of the war," and "our present and immediate task" is to win that war.

Such in a few words is the message of President Wilson to congress, to America, and especially to the world. He leaves no doubt of the government's and the nation's humanitarian aims, and he makes equally plain the determination never to make peace with the present rulers of Germany who have done such "deep and abominable wrong." The president expressly disavows any intention to impair or rearrange the Austro-Hungarian empire, but says that to the Austro-Hungarians should be restored independent control of their own affairs, and avers that the Balkan states and Turkey should be secured against foreign oppression or injustice. Mr. Wilson's polished diction does not conceal his contempt for the pacifists, the traitors and others who seek to hamper the nation in the prosecution of the war. When everyone else within sound of his voice arose and cheered the president's impassioned statements, Senator La Follette, Representative Mason and one or two more sulked silent in their seats. They are easily classified.

## Message Warmly Approved.

Instant approval of the message was general throughout the United States, and it received the hearty endorsement of the British and South American press, though some of the London papers, notably the Times, are skeptical about the distinction the president still makes between the German rulers and the German people. It must be confessed a great many Americans also feel the German people are not so guiltless as Mr. Wilson represents them.

Congress lost little time in starting proceedings for formal declaration of war against Austro-Hungary, and government agents throughout the country at once began preparing to handle the million and a half enemy aliens which it adds to the list. As tens of thousands of Austro-Hungarians have been employed in the mines of America, there is danger of a serious shortage of mine labor. It is likely a good deal of discrimination will be used in dealing with such subjects of the dual monarchy, as the Bohemians and various Slavic races, who have no sympathy with the autocracy of their rulers.

## Bolshevik Peace Efforts.

The efforts of the Russian bolsheviks to bring about a general cessation of fighting was not markedly successful last week. Large numbers of Russian troops were withdrawn from the front lines, and Austro-Hungary formally approved of the armistice plan, but when the representatives of the Russians began discussion of details with the Germans they met with a quick check. Their first two stipulations were that the enemy should not undertake to send forces from the Russian front to the front of Russia's allies, and that the German detachments should be withdrawn from

the islands of Moen sound. To this the German delegates replied evasively, merely promising to consult their government.

On Thursday Berlin announced that a suspension of hostilities along the entire Russian front for ten days beginning Friday noon had been arranged. The same day Trotsky declared the Russian government did not want a separate peace.

There were reports, which, however, were emphatically denied, that Rumania desired to open negotiations for an armistice. If their flank on the north were left unprotected by the quitting of the Russians, the Rumanian forces between the Dniester and the Black sea would be in extreme peril. Members of the Red Cross mission of Rumania have just brought to President Wilson a message from King Ferdinand declaring his country would never make a separate peace.

Ensign Krylenko is now in control of much of the Russian army, his men having captured the headquarters at Mohilev and murdered General Dukhonin, former commander in chief. At last reports General Kaledines' Cossacks were marching on Vitebsk and a battle with Krylenko's forces was impending. Most of the Russian diplomatic representatives in allied countries and the Russian troops in France have disowned the doings of the bolshevik leaders and refuse to recognize their authority.

## Germans Try Hard for Big Victory.

It is evident that the German high command is trying to make a last ditch stand in France or Italy, or both, before the American army gets across in sufficient force to be effective. So far the result achieved by the enemy has been the gain of a few rods of ground at an appalling cost in loss of life. The fighting in the Cambrai sector developed into the bloodiest and fiercest battle of the war, and despite the bringing up of great numbers of Germany's best troops, the British in the main repulsed the repeated mass attacks and held most of the ground gained the previous week. If Byng can continue to hang on to his positions, the battle will prove the best thing the British could ask, for it has brought the Germans "out of their holes" and not only shown them up as inferior in open fighting, but cost them an enormous number of their most valuable men. The reckless sacrifices made by Crown Prince Rupprecht contrast strangely with the information that Germany is training boys of fifteen and sixteen to take their places soon in the fighting lines.

America has cause for pride and satisfaction in the reports that come of the part in the Cambrai fighting taken by American engineers. Caught by a sudden advance of the Germans, these men took shelter until the British came up to them, and then, borrowing guns, went into the fray with a gallantry and coolness that won high praise from the commanding officers of the British. A few of them were killed and wounded, but the others went right on with their fighting, patrolling and railroad building.

## Fierce Fighting in Italy.

Along the Italian front the fighting has been little less fierce than at Cambrai, and as the week closed the Austro-Germans were making their second great offensive there. In the initial attack by largely increased forces the enemy compelled the Italians to withdraw from some advanced positions between Monte Tonderecar and Monte Badeneche, but elsewhere the violent assaults were repulsed. If the invaders succeed in that sector in flanking the Piave and Brenta lines, they might force General Diaz back as far as the Adige. However, the Italian commander seemed quite confident he could prevent this, and his forces were gallantly guarding the entire line while increasing numbers of British and French reinforcements continued to arrive. Among the allies in action on this front are a number of American aviators, and the declaration of war against Austria-Hungary seems to make sure the speedy dispatching of a considerable force of American soldiers to re-enforce the Italians. At any rate that is what Italy expects, and the entire country celebrated joyously the news that its chief foe was to be included in the enemies of the United States.

U. S. Troops to Be Hurried Over. One of the main subjects discussed in the interallied conference in Paris was the best means of getting American troops to France as rapidly as possible and supplying them with munitions and food. To release as much tonnage as may be for the purpose of carrying the American soldiers an international organization was created that will co-ordinate the utilization of transport facilities, somewhat restricting the imports of the various nations. It may be that a considerable part of the supplies for the American army will be obtained from England and France in order to save time.

The allies intend to bring out their full man power, and the troops of the United States are to be taken to the front as quickly as it can be done. There is no doubt that this is the plan of the government, despite the opinion of Von Hindenburg and Von Ludendorff that America was raising a great army only to protect itself against Japan and would not be so "foolish" as to send it to Europe. If those gentlemen read the president's message some glimmer of truth as to the real determination of the United States may penetrate their skulls.

## China May Send an Army.

Before very long yet another

## KNOXVILLE COTTON MILLS.

MANUFACTURERS OF

EXTRA CARDED, DOUBLE ROVING HOSIERY YARNS  
IN WHITE AND MIXTURES. FOSTER CONES

Constantly may be fighting beside the allies in France against Germany. It is reported that a large force from China is to be brought to the western front, probably under the command of General Yeng-Chang, chief general adjutant to the Chinese president. For a long time many thousands of Chinese have been working behind the lines in France, and doubtless the well-trained and equipped armed forces of the Oriental republic also will be welcome there.

From Palestine General Allenby sent word that he was in a position to enter Jerusalem at any time he saw fit, but was continuing an enveloping movement to the north of the Holy City.

Equally satisfactory is the news from East Africa, the British commander there reporting that the last Germans had been cleared from that vast region. All who were not killed or captured had fled to Portuguese territory, where they would soon be attended to, he said. Thus Germany has been stripped of the last of her colonies.

## Interallied Naval Council.

An important decision of the council in Paris was to create an interallied naval council in order to close contact and complete co-operation between the navies of the allies. The council will be composed of the ministers of marine and admiralty chiefs of the nations represented. The warfare on the submarines is proceeding satisfactorily, but the last British admiralty report shows the toll of the U-Boats is still high, 16 British vessels of more than 1,000 tons and five others having been sunk in the week. Among the boats torpedoed was the steamer Apapa, 80 passengers and the crew perishing. The submarine sank the vessel's open boats that were filled with women and children.

Early Thursday morning a fleet of big German airplanes made a raid on England and several of them succeeded in reaching London. Their bombs killed seven persons. At least two of the raiding machines were brought down by gun fire and their crews captured.

## War Stamps on Sale.

The sale of war savings stamps and certificates, America's newest plan for raising war funds and encouraging thrift, began on Monday, and was taken up by the entire country with an enthusiasm that presages its complete success. The campaign will continue for one year, and it is believed the maximum sum authorized—\$2,000,000,000—will be obtained without trouble.

The interstate commerce commission, having recommended the nationalization of the railroads during the continuation of the war, the president and his aids took up the matter last week, and Mr. Wilson was expected soon to send to congress a special message on the subject. The administration conceded that the roads must be given liberal financial aid and a plan may be evolved for their operation under a government director of transportation.

The most terrible of the many disasters incident to the war befell Halifax, N. S., on Thursday, when the French munition ship Mont Blanc exploded in the harbor after being rammed by a Belgian relief vessel. Some 5,000 persons were killed, many thousands injured and a considerable part of the city and its suburbs wrecked by the awful blast.

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